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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/748,373	YANASE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joshua D Campbell	2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed on 06/07/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-15,17,19,21,23 and 24.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07 June 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

- Attachment(s)**
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed on 06/07/2004 and Drawings filed on 06/07/2004.
2. Claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17, 19, 21, 23, and 24 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 15, 17, 19, 21, and 23 are independent claims. Claims 3, 16, 18, 20, and 22 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 4, 5, 11-13, 15, 17, 19, and 21 have been amended. Claims 23 and 24 have been newly added.
3. The rejections of claims 1, 2, 15, 17, 19, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ferguson (US Patent Number 5,649,186, issued on July 15, 1997) has been withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
4. The rejections of claims 4-14 under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferguson (US Patent Number 5,649,186, issued July 15, 1997) as applied to claims 1, 15, 17, 19, and 21 above, and further in view of Krellenstein (US Patent Number 5,924,090, issued on July 13, 1999) has been withdrawn as necessitated by amendment.
5. Claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17, 19, 21, 23, and 24 are allowed as necessitated by amendment and discussed below.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding amended independent claim 1, none of the references, either singularly or in combination, teach or suggest to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention the amended features, "...a typical article selection unit selecting one or more articles from articles belonging to each of the selected

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groups and designating the articles as typical articles of the group ...wherein the topicality degree of each related article group is calculated based on a total number of articles and a number of information sources are calculated for each related article group, wherein the related article group with the topical degree exceeding a predetermined threshold value is selected as a key related article group, and wherein the typical article is selected for each selected key related article group belonging to the key related article group based on a requirement set by the user.” The examiner notes that while a news information system which classifies articles based on similarity is not in and of itself a novel feature (See Examiner Referenced Patents), but in combination with the other limitations of the method steps and system functions of the independent claim (i.e. wherein the topicality degree of each related article group is calculated based on a total number of articles and a number of information sources are calculated for each related article group) the limitations of claim 1 are considered novel, and unobvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made in view of the prior art of record.

In regards to independent claims 15, 17, 19, and 21, the examiner notes that said claims are substantially similar to independent claim 1 and recite system and method versions of the same limitations.

In regards to independent claim 23, the examiner notes that the claim is substantially similar to claim 1 and simply recites a more detailed version of claim 1, thus it is allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

US Patent Number 5,653,065

US Patent Number 5,907,836

US Patent Application Publication Number 2001/0025288

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua D Campbell whose telephone number is (571) 272-4133. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM - 4:30 PM).

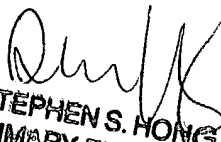
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JDC

September 16, 2004


STEPHEN S. HONG
PRIMARY EXAMINER